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ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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November 19, 1941

No. 25



Region 3 is the first to respond to our invitation in the October 31 issue for news of regional defense activities. William F. Simpson, chairman of the Regional Defense Committee has promptly sent in a concise report of what is happening out in the Ohio Valley. We want to call particular attention to the exceptional record made by the SCS-CCC camp at Grand Haven, Mich., in the purchase of Defense Bonds and Stamps. We wonder if any other office can approach, equal, or surpass its record.

Here is Mr. Simpson's report:

"To date 156 of our 168 regional office employees (92.8%) have purchased bonds and stamps amounting to \$5,688.50. The average investment for each participating employee is \$36.46. Reports from our area offices and field personnel are incomplete but the drive is going forward throughout this region. We must mention one report received from the field. The SCS-CCC camp at Grand Haven, Michigan, reports 100 percent participation by the regular personnel with pledges amounting to 10 percent of their total salaries.

"The USO drive in the Dayton SCS regional office yielded \$96.00.

"Twenty-five regional office employees have received Red Cross certificates for completion of the standard first aid course. Fourteen of these are taking the advanced course. More classes are planned for this winter. 'The SCS Widows' are active in Red Cross, Bundles for Britain and in signing up for other defense work outside of this Service.

"Of course this office has issued instructions to the field concerning the importance of farm gardens for food production, prevention of grass and woods fires as an aid to defense and so on. A recent poll of the field personnel regarding the defense information they are receiving, indicates a strong desire for condensation of material and more 'inside information'.

"In short, we have participated in every defense movement that has come along. We would like to be able to report something original for the benefit of others. At present about all we can say is that we are in the game to win."

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A branch of the USDA library has been established at Upper Darby, Pa., with Miss Sarah W. Parker, former regional librarian of the SCS, in charge. The SCS regional library becomes a part of the Department branch.

Two other field branches of the Department library are located at Little Rock, Ark., and Beltsville, Md., and are under the supervision of Miss Marion E. Wheeler and Mr. Dorris A. Brown, respectively.

Mildred Benton
1525 South Building

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ABOUT DEFENSE

In summarizing our food-for-defense needs next year, Secretary Wickard says we want to boost our production of milk by 9 billion pounds. We hope to get 500 million dozen more eggs; to be able to butcher 8 million more hogs and 3 million more cattle.

It seems certain that we won't be able to import as much of the oils and fats as we're used to bringing in from other countries; so we'll need to make up the deficit ourselves. We can take care of our own oil needs by raising a million and a half more acres of soybeans and about the same additional acreage of peanuts.

We won't need to plow up a lot of additional land to get this additional food. We can get our extra production next year by shifting some of the land from crops which are not needed to crops which are needed.

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The trade agreement recently signed by the United States and the Argentine Republic will benefit consumers considerably through the lowering of import duties. Miss Harriet Elliot, associate administrator of OPM, says, "One especially interesting feature of the agreement is that it encourages trade between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in fresh foods, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. The difference in seasons between the two Hemispheres make their agricultural production naturally complementary."

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Kate Smith, nationally known radio artist, will tell the radio public how to save defense materials. She will serve as liaison officer between the Radio Section, OPM, and the field of radio, in helping to inform the public about the contribution that can be made in conserving scarce materials.

Paul Appleby, Under Secretary of Agriculture, who recently returned from an inspection trip to England, says the United States is now sending the British food supplies equal to about half their prewar food imports each month. With all the English have been able to do toward increasing food production in their islands, they have been able to boost their prewar production only about 10 percent, giving them 40 percent of what they need, Mr. Appleby reports.

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In an effort to spread defense work into every possible plant, defense officials are touring the country in three special exhibit trains--painted red, white, and blue. The specials will carry exhibits of samples of defense equipment and parts needed by the services to give prospective defense manufacturers a clear idea as to types of articles needed. Officials estimate that 30,000 small manufacturers will be interviewed aboard the trains during stops.

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Automobiles are going to lose some of their glitter in the interest of national defense. After December 15, the use of bright finish, bright work, or body trim containing essential metals will be discontinued on new passenger cars.

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SPAB has announced that special attention will be given to the provision of equipment necessary for expanding dairy production to meet United States and British food requirements.

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A billion dollars' worth of food from America's farms is scheduled to go to Great Britain in the 5 months from October 1941 to February 1942, according to Secretary Wickard.

MR. CUBA BROADCASTS ON FARM AND HOME HOUR

Paulo Cuba, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who has been in this country during the past six months to study the work of the SCS in regions 2 and 4, broadcast over the Farm and Home Hour on Nov. 6. Mr. Cuba said, "After inspecting farms from Texas to Virginia, I've reached the conclusion that the program of the SCS is the only hope of Southern agriculture. I've seen eroded farms, haphazardly cultivated, and I've seen others on which there is a complete conservation farm plan in effect--a plan embodying the various practices recommended by the SCS. What I've seen on these farms proves to me that the program that has been developed by the SCS is a complete success both from the standpoint of erosion control and greater crop production."

Mr. Cuba will take back to Brazil the farm practices which he has learned in this country. He says, "The United States has taught us the folly of exploiting land. It is now teaching us that land can be used without being used up." He will put into practice what he has learned here at the Experimental Farm of the Instituto Agronomico de Campinas at Sao Paulo, of which he is manager.

FLASH!!!

George A. Barnes, chief of Information Division, has been loaned to the Office of Facts and Figures, the bureau recently created by the President under Archibald MacLeish to help the public obtain a more comprehensive picture of the national defense program.

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The first soil conservation district for controlling wind erosion in Region 5 has been established by farmers in parts of Norman, Clay, and Polk counties, Minn. It is known as the East Agassiz district and includes the Twin Valley demonstration project.

LU PROJECT LANDS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ARMY USE

Land utilization projects are playing a considerable part in the Army's plans for national defense. Upon the request of the War Department, the Land Management Division of SCS has transferred, either upon a permanent or "for the duration" basis, several large tracts of project lands which are now being used by the Army in its training program.

Transfers have been completed on approximately 37,000 acres and negotiations will soon be completed for the permanent transfer of another tract of 11,000 acres. Other sites are being investigated by the Army for future activities.

The largest single negotiation involves the Crab Orchard project in Williamson and Jackson counties, Ill., where 11,000 acres will be transferred permanently to the War Department as soon as an executive order is signed by the President. A munition plant will be constructed on part of the land.

All of the 9,000 acres in the Lakeland Flatwoods project in Lanier and Lowndes counties, Ga., has been transferred to the Army "for the duration" and Uncle Sam's soldiers will use the land for an aerial gunnery range. Other "duration" transfers include five 500 acre sites in northern Louisiana for bombing ranges.

Tracts which have been transferred permanently to the War Department include 6,372 acres in Clinton County, N. Y., as an addition to the Plattsburg military reservation; 7,451 acres in Jefferson County, N. Y., for Pine Camp reservation; 9,448 acres in Monroe County, Wis., for Camp McCoy; and 1,000 acres in Muskogee County, Okla., for a rifle range.

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Farmers cooperating with the West Ottawa District, Mich., are planting more than a million trees on 1,000 acres.

UNCLE SAM CALLED THEM FOR THE ARMY AND THE NAVY

Again we present the latest report of SCS employees who have been granted military furloughs.

Washington, D.C.: William F. Lawless; Laurel H. Schilhabel.

Region I: Kenneth T. Ackerson.

Region II: Oscar E. Anderson; James L. Aull, Lt. (jg) CEC-V(S)USNR; Charles H. Bailey, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Arthur C. Christopher, Capt. Inf-Res; Wayne R. Culp, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Luther W. Drennan, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; William H. Fleming; Robert Lamar Green, 1st Lt. Cav-Res; Joseph W. Hanna, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Toxie H. Herring, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Nathaniel P. Jones, Jr.; William H. Kelley, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Joe C. May; William A. Phillips; Lonnie F. Thompson, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Selwyn R. Thompson, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Charles D. Trail, 2nd Lt. FA-Res; Hazell E. Waldrop; Ira B. Webber; John D. Witherspoon, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Charles J. Woolbright.

Region III: Calvin Lee Dunifon; Forrest V. Durand; Niles L. Eriksson; Frederick M. Poole.

Region IV: James D. Carter, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Alan J. Moen; Hayward A. Moncrief, Jr., 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Luther E. Taylor, 1st Lt. Inf-Res.

Region V: Harry B. Atkinson, 1st Lt. Engr-Res; Orville P. Carlson, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Frank P. Erichsen, 1st Lt. Engr-Res; Charles J. Fox; Merrill L. Garden; Marvin F. Mickler; Alexander J. McCafferty; Carl J. Schreiber; Joseph A. Steingraeber.

Region VI: Claude M. Evans; Raymond Meador.

Region VII: Robert S. Fisher, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Lyle J. Kennedy, Capt. Inf-Res; Earl Tedford.

(Continued in next column)

IOWA CAMP CELEBRATES 3-YEAR SAFETY RECORD

A three-year record without a lost-time accident was established at Camp SCS-Ia-40, Monticello, Iowa on October 17, 1941. The event was celebrated by a banquet followed by a company dance.

This record is made possible, according to Superintendent F. L. Brinacombe, by the active cooperation of all members of the camp staff and enrollees. Each member of the staff, both Army and supervisory personnel, takes his turn in making the weekly field inspection. The enrollees, leaders and assistant leaders also report safety hazards and take an active interest in safe working conditions. "If you get hurt doing that, you had better start 'over the hill' and keep going", is frequently heard from the enrollees on the field crews.

A total of 76,415 man days were worked and 405,224 truck miles were driven to accomplish this unusual record. This would be equivalent to driving a distance twelve and one half times around the world at the equator and one man working 306 years without a lost time accident.

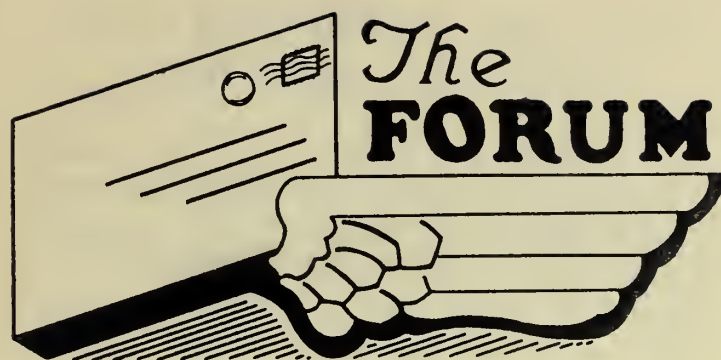
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Region 9 employees are the first to report on the Community Chest campaign this year with a record of 100 percent participation. John F. Bohler, chief of the Regional Service Operations Division, and chairman of the Chest campaign committee, reports that 123 employees in the regional office pledged \$767.80 to the Chest.

Region VIII: Dean E. Stoker.

Region IX: Gordon R. Donley, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Robert Dean Jones; Richard B. Unger.

Region X: Dwight F. Bartholomew, Leonard R. Leoni; Olin F. Weymouth, Ensign D-V (G) USNR.



THOSE APPEAL BOARDS

I too was somewhat awe struck when I learned there were 753 Boards of Appeal, (before I read the Editor's note on the Secretary's Memo No.) I wish to question the wisdom of P.K.H. in his suggestion the number be reduced to half that figure. Half of 753 is 376½ boards of appeal. Now the 376 boards no doubt could do well the work formerly assigned to the 753 (under the old plan) but since each board of necessity is composed of an odd number of Judges to avoid a tie vote, you would be forced on such a procedure in arriving at 376½ boards to cut one board in half which of course would mean to sever one judge in half - But say - hold on P.K.H., that would be murder in America.

J.M.D.

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The State of Victoria, Australia, has enacted a Soil Conservation Act. Provisions of the Act will be administered by a State Board which will consist of a chairman who will devote his full time to his duties of office, and representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Crown Lands and Survey, Water Supply, State Forests, Mines, and pastoral interests.

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A marked reduction in the frequency of removals from farm to farm, both by tenants and by owners, is reported by the Bureau of the Census. The report, which applies to all parts of the country, states that the average stay of owners is 17 years, of northern tenant farmers, 6 years, and of share croppers, 4 years.

CCC TRAINING HELPS IN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

Survey of the employment of ex-CCC enrollees, made by Region 5, removes all doubt as to the value of the CCC training program. During the last six months, 645 large industrial firms in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan were found to have employed a total of 2686 former CCC boys.

Typical comments by the employers included these statements:

The Marathon Rubber Products Co., employing 50 enrollees, reports they prefer former CCC youths to non-CCC men, "because we have found that a larger percentage of them prove satisfactory after thorough trial, and they mind their own business while at work, while other employees are inclined to be quarrelsome and resent having to obey the instructions of their superiors."

The Chain Belt Co., employing 50 ex-enrollees, states ex-enrollees "have been more successful than the average young fellow." One youth, described as stooped and not in the best of physical condition when he left work there to enter a CCC camp, was vigorous and straight when he returned. His work, it was said, was much improved.

What CCC experience has meant to ex-enrollees, as workmen, is indicated by the experience of Eugene Schneider, now, at 25, a foreman over 75 men in the Milwaukee Steel Foundry cleaning room. He says "the CCC taught me to get along with fellows, a very important factor in my work. In the CCC you had to do things you sometimes didn't like to do. A fellow has to learn that if he wants to get along."

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Personnel Management Division has completed the classification survey in Region I which concludes a survey in all regions during the past 2½ years.

FARMERS SAY "THANKS" FOR PROMPT ATTENTION

Here's a letter which made an SOS technician feel mighty good:

"This is just a note to thank you for all the time and thought you have given our problem

"We appreciate it so much--especially the promptness -it has all left us very much impressed by our government and much happier about paying our income tax.

"Thank you!"

Hang a copy of this letter on the wall and let it be a reminder of the importance of prompt and personal attention to farmer problems.

CONTOUR PLOWING CONTEST

Folks in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa are still talking about the biggest soil conservation stunt ever staged in Region 5--the contour plowing matches. Approximately 9,000 people saw the six district preliminaries and the tri-state match.

The finals of the contour plowing match were held near La Crosse, Wis. William C. Key of Mondovi, Wis., won first place in the tractor section, and George H. Schmitz of La Crosse County was adjudged best at the horse-drawn plow. The Mindoro, Wis., high school agriculture class had the winning team in the contest for legs in laying out contour lines.

Prizes totaling \$100 were given by the La Crosse County Soil Conservation District.

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G. L. Crawford, head of SOS work in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, has resigned to accept a position with FSA. J. J. Stroup is now acting in charge at San Juan.

ARMY USES LU-PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN MANEUVERS

During recent maneuvers in the South, the Army made use of several LU projects as the scenes of some of their tactical operations and as camping headquarters. Assistant Secretary Grover B. Hill has written to the Secretary of War complimenting the Army on the conduct of its troops and offering future use of these lands for national defense purposes.

In his letter, the Assistant Secretary quoted from a report made by J. C. Salmon, project conservationist on the Northwest Louisiana and Claiborne Parrish Projects, La., who said:

"At various times during the war games, different troupes bivouaced within the boundaries of Project LA-LU-2 and eighty seven men were stationed there for quite a while. Several thousand soldiers stopped at Project LA-LU-2 on their way home from the maneuvers.

"During the period of actual maneuvers, the Army did not use the land in Project LA-LU-1; however, from September 30 through October 4 we were honored to have camped in the Recreational Area approximately six thousand soldiers from the 6th Division. They were resting and preparing for their return trip home to Camp Leonard Wood, Missouri. During their stay, they enjoyed the privileges afforded in our area, such as swimming, dancing, boating, fishing, etc.

"The conduct and behavior of all groups was commendable and the clean-up jobs accomplished prior to departure were complete over the entire area on both projects."

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W. M. Palmer of Bibbs County, Ala., recently won a prize for growing the longest single kudzu vine (41 feet, 8 inches) in the county.

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 994-A Leave without pay to engage in employment outside the Federal Government (Amends Service policy to permit consideration given to requests for leave without pay for temporary periods to protect seniority rights with private employers, etc.)
- 1032 Revision F.M. SCS #644 on clearance of manuscripts. (Supersedes F.M. SCS 844 and 844-A and outlines procedure for clearance of addresses, papers, and articles of a scientific, technical or policy nature before publication or delivery.)
- 1033 Transfer of records and statistics section. (Records and Statistics Section has been transferred from Division of Farm Planning and Management to the Division of Engineering.)
- 1034 Saturday half-holiday pay to WAE employees. (Supersedes F. M. SCS 293 and sets up administrative policy to determine when employees are eligible to receive payment for Saturday half holidays.)
- 914-B WPA wage rates. (Revised wage schedule is effective on and after Nov. 1, 1941.)
- 904 T Re-employment benefits for enlisted men. (Provides re-employment benefits to former employees who enlisted subsequent to May 1, 1940)

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The regional and area office employees in Lincoln, Nebr., again demonstrated their charitable qualities by putting over an excellent 1941 Community Chest Campaign. The local Chest committee set a goal of \$700 for SCS employees in Lincoln; pledges amounted to \$815 of which \$622.75 was cash 90.44% of the employees contributed this year.

ORIENTATION SCHOOLS

Five orientation schools for 137 new professional trainees have been held in Region 7. These schools were located at Bridgeport, Nebraska; Chamberlain, South Dakota; Mandan, North Dakota; Culbertson, Montana; and Weeping Water, Nebraska. The trainees from the Wyoming area attended the school at Bridgeport, Nebraska.

Since the orientation schools, the trainees have been assigned to CCC camps or to work units with similar conditions where for four weeks they are training in work application and labor supervision. The next step in the trainee program will be his assignment to training supervisors on work units.

Regional and area technicians have been charged with great responsibility by A. E. McClymonds, Regional Conservator. He stated at the staff conference in October that "Everyone in our region must make some contribution to insure the success of our training program. We must all realize it is a definite part of our job."

The importance of the training job in Region 7 was aptly brought out in the October regional staff meeting when the large number of new districts that need staffing with experienced personnel was discussed. Also it was shown that 37% of the present regional professional personnel are new men.

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Dr. P. R. Viljoen, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Union of South Africa, and his assistant, Dr. A. J. Beylerveld, who are in the United States on a special mission, recently called on Dr. Bennett and were informed about the districts program in this country.

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Three million farms are now included in the boundaries of soil conservation districts.

PRINTERS' INK

"Men of the Soil" by Angus McDonald, associate information specialist, in the November *Land Policy Review*.

"A Study of Old Farmer-Built Terraces" by A. Carnes and W. A. Weld, agricultural engineers at Spartanburg, S. C., in the October *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Wildlife Borders--An Innovation in Farm Management" by V. E. Davison, senior biologist at Spartanburg, S. C., in the October *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

"Subsurface Tillage and Straw Mulch Saves Soils" by R. R. Hinde, associate agronomist at Salina, Kans., in the November *Progressive Farmer*.

"Some Important Farm Machinery and Soil Conservation Relationships" by M. L. Nichols, assistant chief in charge of research, and R. B. Gray, in the October *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Hydrologic Evaluation of Watershed Improvement Programs" by R. L. Stevens, head of the hydrology plans section, and E. R. Kinnear, senior soil conservationist, in the October *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Staining Natural River Sands for Studies of Sediment Movement" by Richard G. Grassy, assistant geologist at Greenville, S. C., in the November *Civil Engineering*.

"Grasshoppers and Their Effect on Sagebrush on the Little Powder River in Wyoming and Montana" by B. W. Allred, chief of the regional range conservation division at Lincoln, Nebr., in the October *Ecology*.

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"The Soil - A National Heritage" was the subject of the prize-winning oration delivered by R. L. Jones of Carrollton, Ala., at the National Future Farmers of America Public Speaking Contest held in Kansas City October 20.

OFF THE PRESS

"The Cotton and Tobacco South." Miscellaneous Publication No. 474.

The first six folders of a series prepared by the SCS for farmers and ranchers of the northern Great Plains are ready for distribution. Under the general heading, "Save Your Soil," each folder deals with a particular conservation practice. Subjects dealt with in the six folders are: No. 1, "Contour Strip Cropping Saves Both Soil and Water"; No. 2, "Protected Waterways in Cultivated Fields"; No. 3, "Wildlife and Soil Conservation Go Hand in Hand"; No. 4, "Range Improvement by Proper Stocking"; No. 5, "Strip Cropping for Control of Wind Erosion"; and No. 6, "Save Soil, Moisture with Contour Tillage."

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Range Conservation Division of Region 8 has prepared an excellent statement on "Increased Forage Production to Increase Livestock Production for National Defense." The timely suggestions offered by the Division have been passed on to the western stockmen.

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E. C. Fishbaugh, a Shenandoah, Iowa, banker, furnishes his tenants with hand levels for laying out contour lines. He says, "I am more interested in saving the soil than worrying about crop yields, as the farm land will produce if the soil fertility is maintained and not washed away."

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There are about 200,000 fewer farm workers than there were a year ago. This reduction was mainly in the number of family workers since the number of hired hands remained about the same. Older men and boys in many instances have been hired to take the place of the regular hands leaving for the army or for jobs in the expanding defense industries.